

Message Text

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11

ACTION SP-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 AGR-20

COME-00 EB-11 SWF-02 TRSE-00 IGA-02 HEW-08 SCI-06

DRC-01 /129 W

----- 039002

R 150717Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1995

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOGADISCIO 0924

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SO ECON SO

SUBJ: DROUGHT QUESTION IN SOMALIA

REF: MOGADISCIO 0627

1. SUMMARY: REPORTS REACHING EMBASSY INDICATE THAT NORMAL SPRING RAINS HAVE NOW FALLEN THROUGHOUT COUNTRY, AND THEREFORE CONDITIONS OF ORDINARY AUSTERITY PREVAIL RATHER THAN SPECIAL EMERGENCY. REPORTS ARE MOSTLY INDIRECT AND SECOND-HAND, SO EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO INQUIRE AND WILL REPORT IF SERIOUS INDICATIONS OF FOOD SHORTAGE APPEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFFS FREQUENTLY SEE HEAD OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM IN SOMALIA AND OTHER UNITED NATIONS OFFICERS WHO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM VISITORS TO RURAL AREAS, AND HAVE CONTACTS WITH GSDR OFFICIALS WHO SHOULD BE BEST INFORMED ABOUT DROUGHT QUESTION. HEAD OF WFP
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REPORTS THAT THERE HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN NORMAL SPRING RAINS THR-

OUGHOUT COUNTRY, AND THERE IS CURRENTLY NO FOOD EMERGENCY
ACCORDING TO GSDR OFFICIALS OR TO BEST OF HIS OWN KNOWLEDGE.

3. EMBOFFS HAVE ALSO SPOKEN TO EUROPEANS WHO HAVE BEEN IN RURAL
AREAS RECENTLY, AND WE HAVE DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH EMBASSY LOCAL
EMPLOYEES WHO MEET SOMALIS VISITING MOGADISCIO FROM OUTLYING
AREAS. CONSENSUS IS THAT NORMAL SPRING RAINS HAVE NOW FALLEN
THROUGHOUT COUNTRY, INCLUDING NORTHEASTERN "ELBOW" (MIJERTAIN),
WHERE THERE HAD BEEN SOME PREVIOUS REPORTS OF RAIN FAILURE.

4. SOMALIA IS VERY ARID COUNTRY, AND EVEN NORMAL RAINFALL MEANS
AUSTERE LIFE FOR NOMADS WHO CONSTITUTE MAJORITY OF POPULATION.
MARGIN OF SURVIVAL IS THIN. REPORTS REACHING EMBASSY FROM MORE
REMOTE AREAS ARE SECOND-HAND AT BEST, SO WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE
ALL PRACTICAL INQUIRIES, AND WILL INFORM DEPARTMENT IF SIGNIF-
ICANT INDICATIONS OF FOOD SHORTAGE DEVELOP.
KIRK

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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